

## The Syntax Analysis in Relative Clause Found in the Novel “The Lord of The Ring”

I Gede Nika Wirawan<sup>1)</sup>, I Wayan Suryasa<sup>2)</sup>

<sup>1,2)</sup>System Information Study Program, ITB-STIKOM Bali

\*Corresponding Author

Email: [nika.wirawan@gmail.com](mailto:nika.wirawan@gmail.com)

---

### Abstract

The study analyzed about syntax analysis in relative clause found in the novel “The Lord of the Ring”. “The Lord of the Ring” is stated as a literary work of drama written by J.R.R Tolkien. The theory used in this study is the theory of relative clauses proposed by Quirk (1985), Sneddon (1996) and supported by other theories. The theory used to analyze the syntax structure in relative clauses found in the novel “The Lord of the Ring” was the theory proposed by Brown and Miller. The method used to get the data of relative clauses found in the novel “The Lord of the Ring” was qualitative library research. This research study aims to: (i) analyze the syntax structure in the relative clause found in the novel entitled “The Lord of the Ring”, (ii) analyze the types of relative clauses in the relative clauses found in the novel entitled “The Lord of the Ring”. In conclusion, the use of relative clauses in The Lord of the Rings serves not only a grammatical function but also plays a crucial role in world-building and character development. The study highlights the significance of syntactic choices in literary works, demonstrating how Tolkien’s use of relative clauses enhances textual cohesion and reader engagement. After conducting a syntactic analysis of relative clauses found in The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien, it can be concluded that the novel presents a wide variety of relative clause structures that reflect both formal and stylistic richness.

**Keywords:** Relative Clause, Syntax, Tree Diagram

---

## INTRODUCTION

Novel is a literary work that is in non-dramatic textual works with or without illustration. Novel, poems and drama can be called as literary works. One of literary work is the novel entitled *The Lord of the Ring*. In the novel entitled *The Lord of the Ring*, the researcher found that there are many data in relative clauses that can be analyzed in tree diagram. The data of relative clauses found in the novel entitled *The Lord of the Ring* are interested to be analyzed using the tree diagram in order to know about the syntax analysis.

There are an idea, a question, and statements which can be expressed by words and we know that there is a subject and verb in the sentence. Phrases and sentences are built up of constituent series and it can serve as as grammatical function. The arrangement and the form of word are related in a sentence. Some words that can build some sentences in English as one unit. This study analyzed syntax in relation to the relative clause. Syntax is the types of structure of sentences. The relative clause can be the topic of discussion in this study because it can be found in many aspects of language either in written or oral communication. Sentence can be formed by subject, verb, complement, object and adverbial (SVCOA). A clause can be in the form of independent and dependent clause. Independent clause is a clause standing alone as a simple sentence. However, the dependent clause does not stand alone as a sentence although there is a subject and a verb in it. The types of dependent clauses are classified into adverbial clauses, noun clauses and adjective clauses. Noun clause is in a subordinate clause that is used as a noun in the sentence. There are three main structural types of clauses that can be analyzed in this study. They are finite clause, nonfinite clause and verbless clause that are parts of it that can be analyzed. The verb element in finite is called as finite clause. Nonfinite clause is called as a clause in which verb element is stated in non-finite. There are to-infinitive, bare infinitive, -ing participle, and -ed participle. Verbless clause is called as a clause in which there is no verb element. However, it is

nevertheless capable of being analysed into clause of elements. The dependent clause fills in grammatical functions that are found in a sentence. There are some types of dependent clauses that can be classified into some types. A dependent clause functioning as a noun in the sentence is stated as a noun clause. Relative clause is stated as a subordinate clause used to modify a noun or pronoun found in the main clause. Relative clause is used in the level of phrase. This can be seen in a relative pronoun for example that, who, which or whose. Relative clause can be classified into Restrictive/defining and non-restrictive/non-defining. Restrictive/defining and non-restrictive/non-defining are classified as relative clause types. Relative pronoun is placed in a clause in initial position. In restrictive relative clause, the sentence provided the reader with sufficient information. But in non-restrictive relative clause, an additional information is provided. Based on the explanation about relative clause, the researcher has the purposes in analyzing relative clauses found in the novel. The first is to analyze about the types of relative clauses found in the novel entitled "*The Lost of the Ring*". The second is to analyze about the syntax structure in relative clauses found in the novel entitled "*The Lost of the Ring*". The syntax structure is analyzed by using the tree diagram and using the theory proposed by Brown and Miller. In analyzing the types of relative clause, the researcher applied the theory that is proposed by Quirk.

The theory used to analyze the types of relative clause found in the data source is theory proposed by Comrie. The theories are chosen because the theories can analyze the types of relative clauses found in the novel entitled "*The Lost of the Ring*". This study applied qualitative method as the results of data analysis that are described descriptively. The theories used to analyze syntax analysis in the tree diagram are the theory proposed by Brown and Miller. It can be seen the tree diagrams are analyzed in order to know about the syntax structure found in the relative clauses. Relative clauses is positioned after a noun phrase. Information related to the person or thing indicated by noun phrase is given. The connection located between the noun phrase in the main clause is placed in the main clause. The antecedent and the relative pronoun can be found in the relative clause. The relative pronoun *which* in the example above introduced the relative clause *which I ordered last week*. The sentence that contains relative pronoun can be found initially. They are in the form of subject, complement, adverbial, postmodifier, prepositional complement, or object (Quirk et al, 1985: 365). Based on the explanation above, the writer was interested in analyzing syntactic structure of relative clause found in the novel entitled "*The Lord of the Ring*" by Steinbeck because the novel has more completed data in language used, especially in Relative clause.

These findings align with previous studies on syntax in literary texts, such as Quirk et al. (1985), who examined the role of relative clauses in English syntax, and Huddleston & Pullum (2002), who explored their structural complexities. Additionally, recent linguistic research on literary syntax (e.g., Biber et al., 2021) highlights the stylistic impact of syntactic variation in narrative prose. In conclusion, the use of relative clauses in *The Lord of the Rings* serves not only a grammatical function but also plays a crucial role in world-building and character development. The study underscores the significance of syntactic choices in literary works, demonstrating how Tolkien's use of relative clauses enhances textual cohesion and reader engagement. Huddleston & Pullum (2002), who categorize their syntactic functions. Additionally, Biber et al. (1999) emphasize the distribution of relative clauses in different registers, supporting the argument that Tolkien's use of these structures reflects the novel's formal and archaic tone. Leech and Short (2007) highlight the significance of syntactic variation in literary style, which supports the idea that Tolkien's use of relative clauses contributes to world-building and character development. The syntactic analysis of relative clauses in *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien reveals the author's extensive use of both defining and non-defining relative clauses as a key narrative and stylistic device. Through the use of various relative pronouns—such as *who*, *whom*, *which*, *that*, and *whose*. Tolkien constructs complex sentence structures that serve to clarify referents, enhance

character development, and build the elaborate world of Middle-earth. This study aligns with Quirk et al. (1985), who emphasize that relative clauses are essential in both spoken and written English to provide additional information and maintain textual cohesion. Moreover, Biber et al. (1999) note that relative clauses are a common feature of academic and literary texts, often reflecting a more formal register and syntactic complexity both of which are evident in Tolkien's writing.

Additionally, the presence of stylistic variation in Tolkien's use of relative clauses supports the findings of Huddleston and Pullum (2002), who argue that authors manipulate syntactic forms not only for grammatical purposes but also for rhetorical effect. Tolkien's mastery of these structures enables him to maintain narrative flow while embedding intricate details, contributing to the overall immersive experience of the novel. In conclusion, this research highlights how the study of syntactic elements such as relative clauses not only deepens linguistic understanding but also uncovers how authors shape meaning, tone, and narrative depth through grammatical choices. The findings reinforce the importance of syntax in literary analysis and provide a model for examining grammatical structures in other literary works. Previous research on syntax in literary texts, such as Tannen (2007) on narrative discourse and Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) on systemic functional grammar, further reinforces the importance of syntactic choices in shaping meaning and reader engagement.

## RESEARCH METHODS

Library research method is stated as the strategy used in collecting data of relative clauses found in the novel *"The Lost of the Ring"*. The technique of collecting data were done by note taking, reading and observing. The process of collecting data of relative clauses could be conducted by reading the entire novel to get the story of the novel entitled *"The Lost of the Ring"* and to observe the possibility of the data that could be taken from data source. The novel entitled *"The Lost of the Ring"* were read to get data of relative clauses. It is continued to select the data based on the problems discussed in this research study. The types of relative clauses were then classified and continued to analyze the syntax structure found in the tree diagram of the novel entitled *"The Lost of the Ring"*. Library research was conducted by doing collecting the data. The technique of collecting data could be conducted by doing note taking, reading and doing observation. The process of collecting the data could be done by reading the entire novel entitled *"The Lost of the Ring"* to get the story of the novel and to observe the possibility of the data which could be taken from the novel. The entire novel entitled *"The Lost of the Ring"* were read to look for the sentences containing relative clauses. It is continued to get the data based on the problems discussed in this research study. Finally, the types of relative clauses found in the novel entitled *"The Lost of the Ring"* were classified and continue to analyze the syntax structure of relative clauses. (6)

According to Creswell (2014), qualitative research focuses on exploring and understanding meaning within texts through interpretative analysis. Additionally, Bogdan and Biklen (2007) define qualitative research as an approach that investigates natural settings, allowing researchers to analyze linguistic structures in their original context. The data for this study were collected from J.R.R. Tolkien's novel *The Lord of the Rings*, specifically selecting sentences that contain relative clauses. The selection process follows Miles and Huberman's (1994) model of qualitative data analysis, which involves data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. According to Moleong (2012), qualitative research aims to understand phenomena in a natural setting, with the researcher as the key instrument. This approach is suitable for analyzing syntax, particularly relative clauses, in literary texts. The analysis follows

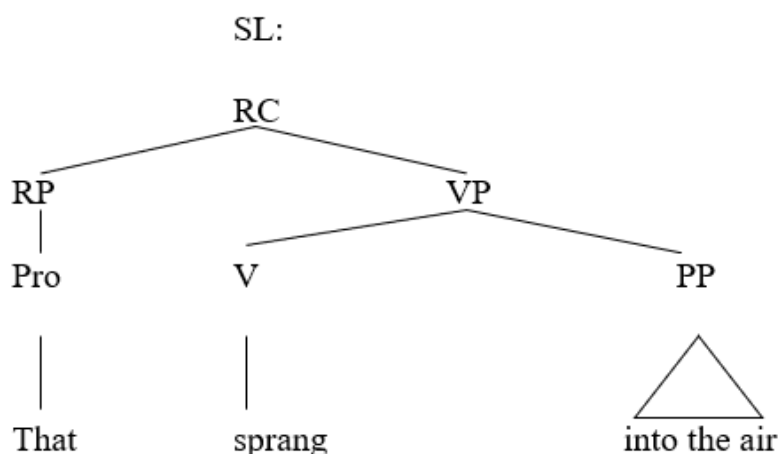
a descriptive approach, as described by Sudaryanto (1993), who emphasizes the importance of describing language elements objectively and systematically. In this context, relative clauses found in the novel *The Lord of the Rings* are identified and described based on their syntactic structures. Data are collected using documentation technique, where the novel serves as the primary source. Then, observation and note-taking techniques (Sudaryanto, 1993) are used to identify and classify relative clauses. Each clause is then analyzed using theoretical frameworks of syntax. The syntactic analysis is based on the framework of Quirk et al. (1985) and Huddleston & Pullum (2002), focusing on identifying the types and functions of relative clauses. The selection process follows Miles and Huberman's (1994) model of qualitative data analysis, which involves three stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data of relative clauses found in the novel entitled "*The Lost of the Ring*" were analyzed based on their types and continue to analyze syntax in tree diagram. Here are the data of relative clauses found in the novel entitled "*The Lost of the Ring*" including the tree diagram analysis.

### Datum 1

There was a forest of silver spears that sprang into the air.



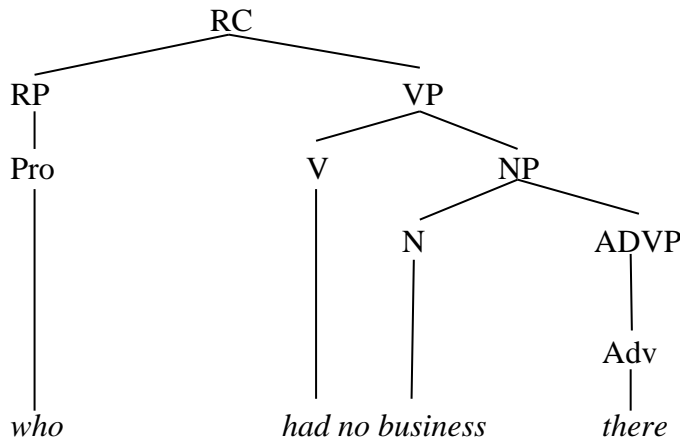
It can be seen that datum 2 is stated as a kind of restrictive relative clause with relative pronoun *that* as the antecedent. In restrictive relative clause, it can be seen that the relative pronoun has the function as a subject. The relative clause in datum 1 has the constituent structure of subject (*that*), verb phrase (*sprang*), and prepositional phrase (*into the air*).

Relative clauses *that sprang into the air* is found after a noun phrase a forest of silver spears. It usually provides some information related to the person or thing indicated by that noun phrase a forest of silver spears. Relative pronoun *who* introduces relative clause *that sprang into the air*. Relative pronoun *that* in datum 1 differs from personal pronoun in which the sentence contains relative pronoun and is placed at the beginning of the clause. Relative pronoun *that* functions as the subject. Relative clauses *that sprang into the air* is stated as restrictive relative

clause based on theory proposed by Comrie (1981). An English relative clause *that sprang into the air* is stated as relative pronoun type. According to Comrie (1981) as with the pronoun-retention type, there is a pronoun in the relative clause indicating the head.

Datum 2

The place was packed with people *who had no business there.* (62)

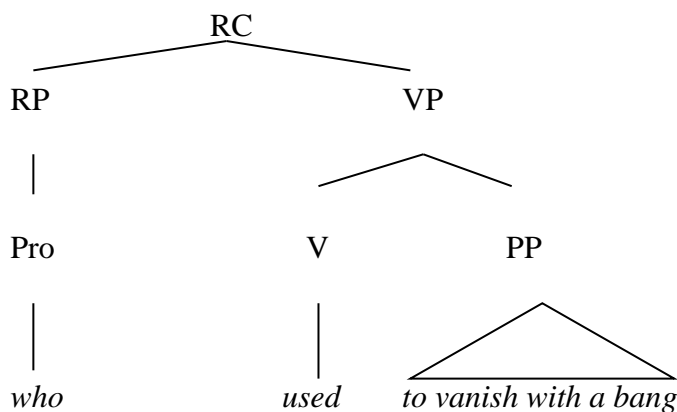


Datum 2 is called as a kind of restrictive relative clause with relative pronoun *who* as the antecedent. In restrictive relative clause, it can be seen that the relative pronoun has the function as a subject. The relative clause in datum 1 has the constituent structure of subject (*who*), verb phrase (*had no*), noun (*business*) and adverb (*there*).

Relative clauses *who had no business there* is found after a noun phrase *people*. It usually provides some information related to the person or thing indicated by that noun phrase *people*. Relative pronoun *who* introduces relative clause *who had no business there*. Relative pronoun *who* in datum 2 differs from personal pronoun in which the sentence contains relative pronoun and is placed at the beginning of the clause. Relative pronoun *who* functions as the subject. Relative clauses *who had no business there* is stated as restrictive relative clause based on theory proposed by Comrie (1981). An English relative clause *who had no business there* is stated as relative pronoun type. According to Comrie (1981) as with the pronoun-retention type, there is a pronoun in the relative clause indicating the head. (8)

Datum 3

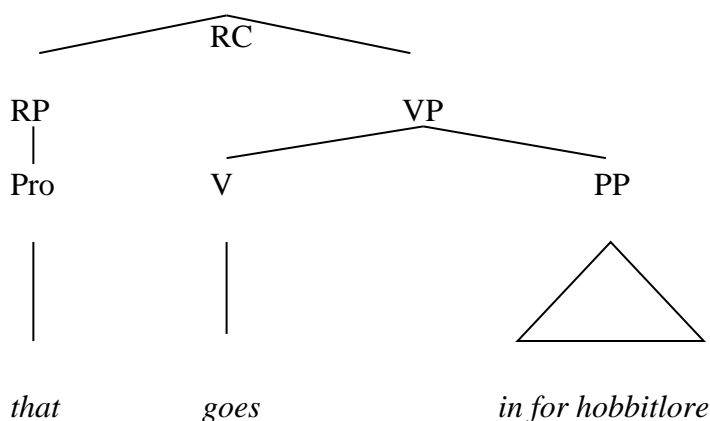
Mad Baggins, *who used to vanish with a bang.* (66)



It can be seen that datum 3 is called as a kind of restrictive relative clause with relative pronoun *who* as the antecedent. In restrictive relative clause, it can be seen that the relative pronoun has the function as a subject. The relative clause in datum 1 has the constituent structure of subject (*who*), verb phrase (*used*), and prepositional phrase (*to vanish with a bang*). Relative clauses *who used to vanish with a bang* is found after a noun phrase a forest of silver spears. It usually provides some information related to the person or thing indicated by that noun phrase a forest of silver spears. Relative pronoun *who* introduces relative clause *who used to vanish with a bang*. (12) Relative pronoun *who* in datum 3 differs from personal pronoun in which the sentence contains relative pronoun and is placed at the beginning of the clause. Relative pronoun *who* functions as the subject. Relative clauses *who used to vanish with a bang* is stated as restrictive relative clause based on theory proposed by Comrie (1981). An English relative clause *who used to vanish with a bang* is stated as relative pronoun type. According to Comrie (1981) as with the pronoun-retention type, there is a pronoun in the relative clause indicating the head. (10)

Datum 4

I am the only one *that goes in for hobbitlore*. (72)

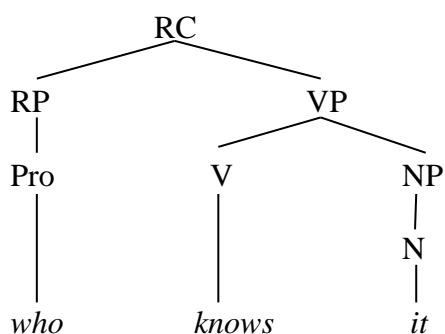


Datum 4 is called as a kind of restrictive relative clause with relative pronoun *that* as the antecedent. In restrictive relative clause, it can be seen that the relative pronoun has the function as a subject. The relative clause in datum 1 has the constituent structure of subject (*that*), verb phrase (*goes*), prepositional phrase (*in for hobbitlore*).

Relative clauses *that goes in for hobbitlore* is found after a noun phrase *the only one*. It usually provides some information related to the person or thing indicated by that noun phrase *the only one*. Relative pronoun *that* introduces relative clause *that goes in for hobbitlore*. Relative pronoun *that* in datum 2 differs from personal pronoun in which the sentence contains relative pronoun and is placed at the beginning of the clause. Relative pronoun *that* functions as the subject. Relative clauses *that goes in for hobbitlore* is stated as restrictive relative clause based on theory proposed by Comrie (1981). An English relative clause *that goes in for hobbitlore* is stated as relative pronoun type. According to Comrie (1981) as with the pronoun-retention type, there is a pronoun in the relative clause indicating the head.

Datum 5

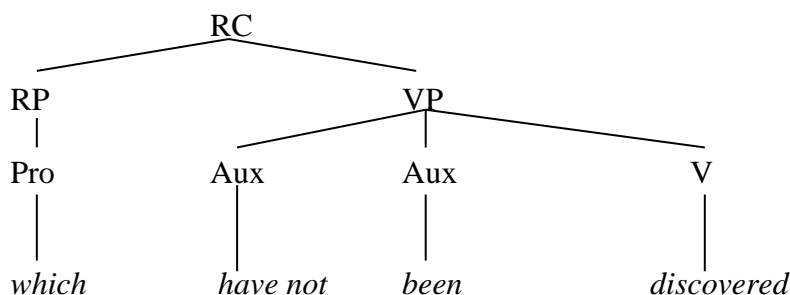
You shall hear it told in full by one *who knows it*.



It can be seen that datum 5 is called as a kind of restrictive relative clause with relative pronoun *who* as the antecedent. (12)In restrictive relative clause, it can be seen that the relative pronoun has the function as a subject. The relative clause in datum 5 has the constituent structure of subject (*who*), verb phrase (*knows*), and noun phrase (*it*). Relative clauses *who knows it* is found after a noun phrase a forest of silver spears. It usually provides some information related to the person or thing indicated by that noun phrase a forest of silver spears. Relative pronoun *who* introduces relative clause *who knows it*. Relative pronoun *who* in datum 5 differs from personal pronoun in which the sentence contains relative pronoun and is placed at the beginning of the clause. Relative pronoun *who* functions as the subject. Relative clauses *who knows it* is stated as restrictive relative clause based on theory proposed by Comrie (1981). An English relative clause *who knows it* is stated as relative pronoun type. According to Comrie (1981) as with the pronoun-retention type, there is a pronoun in the relative clause indicating the head.

Datum 6

There must be great secrets buried there *which have not been discovered*.

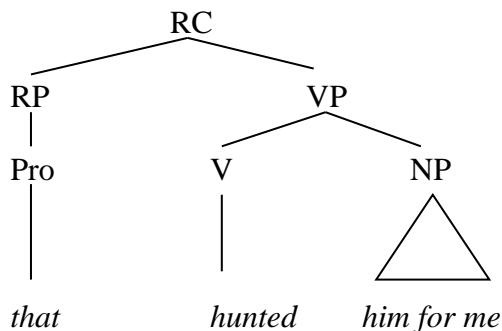


It can be seen that datum 6 is called as a kind of restrictive relative clause with relative pronoun *which* as the antecedent. In restrictive relative clause, it can be seen that the relative pronoun has the function as a subject. The relative clause in datum 5 has the constituent structure of subject (*which*), verb phrase (*have not been*), and verb phrase (*discovered*). Relative clauses *which have not been discovered* is found after a noun phrase a forest of silver spears. It usually provides some information related to the person or thing indicated by that noun phrase a forest of silver spears. Relative pronoun *which* introduces relative clause *which have not been discovered*. Relative pronoun *which* in datum 6 differs from personal pronoun in which the sentence contains relative pronoun and is placed at the beginning of the clause. Relative pronoun *which* functions as the subject. Relative clauses *which have not been discovered* is stated as restrictive relative clause based on theory proposed by Comrie (1981). An English relative clause *which have not*

*been discovered* is stated as relative pronoun type. According to Comrie (1981) as with the pronoun-retention type, there is a pronoun in the relative clause indicating the head.

## Datum 7

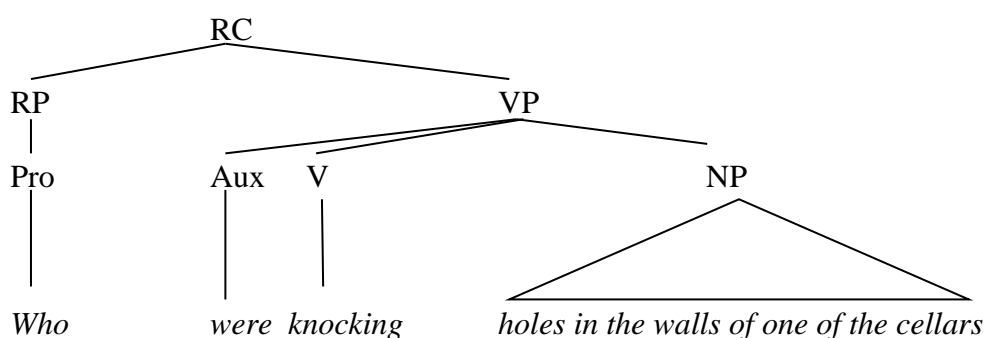
*Those that hunted him for me.*



It can be seen that datum 7 is called as a kind of restrictive relative clause with relative pronoun *that* as the antecedent. In restrictive relative clause, it can be seen that the relative pronoun has the function as a subject. The relative clause in datum 7 has the constituent structure of subject (*that*), verb phrase (*hunted*), and noun phrase (*him for me*). Relative clauses *that hunted him for me* is found after a noun phrase *those*. It usually provides some information related to the person or thing indicated by that noun phrase a forest of silver spears. Relative pronoun *that* introduces relative clause *that hunted him for me*. Relative pronoun *who* in datum 5 differs from personal pronoun in which the sentence contains relative pronoun and is placed at the beginning of the clause. Relative pronoun *that* functions as the subject. Relative clauses *that hunted him for me* is stated as restrictive relative clause based on theory proposed by Comrie (1981). An English relative clause *that hunted him for me* is stated as relative pronoun type. According to Comrie (1981) as with the pronoun-retention type, there is a pronoun in the relative clause indicating the head.

## Datum 8

*Who were knocking holes in the walls of one of the cellars.*

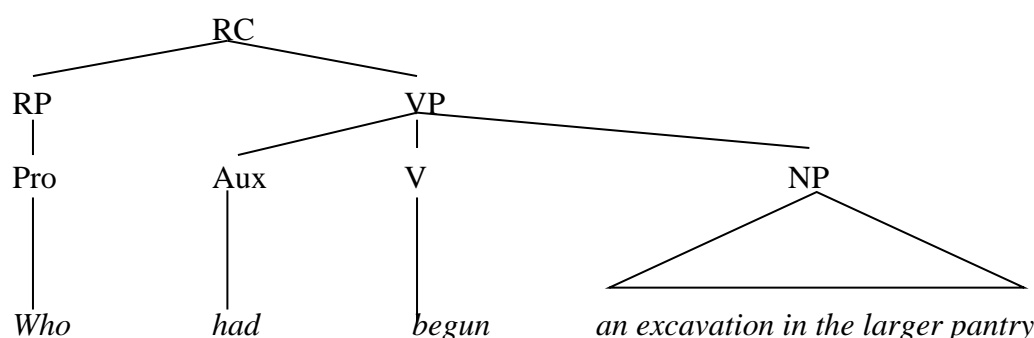


It can be seen that datum 8 is called as a kind of restrictive relative clause with relative pronoun *who* as the antecedent. In restrictive relative clause, it can be seen that the relative pronoun has the function as a subject. The relative clause in datum 7 has the constituent structure

of subject (who), verb phrase (were knocking), and noun phrase (*holes in the walls of one of the cellars*). Relative clauses *who were knocking holes in the walls of one of the cellars* is found after a noun phrase. It usually provides some information related to the person or thing indicated by that noun phrase a forest of silver spears. Relative pronoun *that* introduces relative clause *who were knocking holes in the walls of one of the cellars*. Relative pronoun *who* in datum 5 differs from personal pronoun in which the sentence contains relative pronoun and is placed at the beginning of the clause. Relative pronoun *that* functions as the subject. Relative clauses *who were knocking holes in the walls of one of the cellars* is stated as restrictive relative clause based on theory proposed by Comrie (1981). An English relative clause *who were knocking holes in the walls of one of the cellars* is stated as relative pronoun type. According to Comrie (1981) as with the pronoun-retention type, there is a pronoun in the relative clause indicating the head.

Datum 9

*Who had begun an excavation in the larger pantry.*



It can be seen that datum 9 is called as a kind of restrictive relative clause with relative pronoun *who* as the antecedent. In restrictive relative clause, it can be seen that the relative pronoun has the function as a subject. The relative clause in datum 9 has the constituent structure of subject (who), verb phrase (*had begun*), and noun phrase (*an excavation in the larger pantry*). Relative clauses *Who had begun an excavation in the larger pantry* is found after a noun phrase *those*. It usually provides some information related to the person or thing indicated by that noun phrase. Relative pronoun *who* introduces relative clause *Who had begun an excavation in the larger pantry*. Relative pronoun *who* in datum 8 differs from personal pronoun in which the sentence contains relative pronoun and is placed at the beginning of the clause. Relative pronoun *who* functions as the subject. Relative clauses *Who had begun an excavation in the larger pantry* is stated as restrictive relative clause based on theory proposed by Comrie (1981). An English relative clause *Who had begun an excavation in the larger pantry* is stated as relative pronoun type. According to Comrie (1981) as with the pronoun-retention type, there is a pronoun in the relative clause indicating the head.

## CONCLUSION

The study analyzed about syntax analysis in relative clause found in the novel “*The Lord of the Ring*”. “*The Lord of the Ring*” is stated as a literary work of drama written by J.R.R Tolkien. The theory used in this study is the theory of relative clauses proposed by Quirk (1985), Sneddon (1996) and supported by other theories. The theory used to analyze the syntax structure in relative clauses found in the novel “*The Lord of the Ring*” was the theory proposed by Brown and Miller. The method used to get the data of relative clauses found in the novel “*The Lord of*

*the Ring*” was qualitative library research. The data were taken from the novel entitled “*The Lord of the Ring*”.

The analysis of relative clauses in *The Lord of the Rings* reveals the sophisticated use of syntax in J.R.R. Tolkien's writing. Relative clauses are employed not only to provide descriptive and essential information but also to enhance the narrative's depth and texture. The study identifies a variety of relative clause types, including restrictive and non-restrictive clauses, which are intricately woven into the sentences to achieve clarity, emphasis, and stylistic elegance. The use of relative pronouns such as "who," "which," and "that" reflects the conventional grammatical structures of English while occasionally diverging to accommodate the archaic and poetic tone characteristic of his work. These deviations underscore the flexibility of relative clauses in adapting to diverse narrative styles. Furthermore, the relative clauses contribute significantly to character development, world-building, and the conveyance of the novel's themes. Overall, this syntactic exploration demonstrates that relative clauses are not merely linguistic tools but integral elements of Tolkien's storytelling craft. They serve both functional and artistic purposes, enriching the novel's readability and immersiveness. This analysis underscores the importance of syntax in literary studies and highlights Tolkien's mastery in balancing linguistic precision with creative expression.

## REFERENCES

- Bowler, J., Lilley, T. J., Pittam, J. D., & Wakeling, A. E. (1989). Novel steroidal pure antiestrogens. *Steroids*, 54(1), 71-99. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0039-128X\(89\)90076-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/0039-128X(89)90076-7)
- Broccias, C. (2011). Motivating the flexibility of oriented-ly adverbs. *Motivation in Grammar and the Lexicon*, 71-88.
- Brown, K., Miller, J., & Miller, J. E. (1991). *Syntax: a linguistic introduction to sentence structure*. Psychology Press.
- Catford, J. C. (1965). *A linguistic theory of translation: An essay in applied linguistics*. Oxford University Press.
- Doetjes, J. (2007). Adverbs and quantification: Degrees versus frequency. *Lingua*, 117(4), 685-720. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lingua.2006.04.003>
- Ernst, T. (2007). On the role of semantics in a theory of adverb syntax. *Lingua*, 117(6), 1008-1033. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lingua.2005.03.015>
- Guo, Z. Y., Li, D. Y., & Wang, B. X. (1998). A novel concept for convective heat transfer enhancement. *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer*, 41(14), 2221-2225. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0017-9310\(97\)00272-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0017-9310(97)00272-X)
- Haerberli, E., & Ingham, R. (2007). The position of negation and adverbs in Early Middle English. *Lingua*, 117(1), 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lingua.2005.08.001>
- Halliday, M. A. K. (1985). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*, Edward Arnold, London. *Google Scholar*.

Huddleston, R., & Pullum, G. K. (2005). *A student's introduction to English grammar*. Cambridge University Press.

Ji, S. (2000). 'Face' and polite verbal behaviors in Chinese culture. *Journal of pragmatics*, 32(7), 1059-1062. <https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378>

Juliarta, I. M. (2023). Translation Analysis In Sentence Patterns Found In The Novel Entitled "The Prince". *International Journal of Linguistics and Discourse Analytics*, 5(1), 41-53.